

CLAIMS

1. Process for racemising an enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of a primary amino acid amide with a strong base in an organic solvent, characterised in that the strong base is chemically reactive towards water.

5 2. Process according to Claim 1, characterised in that a metal alkoxide, a metal alkyl, a metal amide, or a metal hydride is applied as the strong base.

10 3. Process according to Claim 2, characterised in that a metal alkoxide is applied as the strong base.

4. Process according to any one of Claims 1-3, characterised in that the racemisation is conducted with 0.001 to 1000 mole% of strong base relative to the amide.

15 5. Process according to claim 4, characterised in that the racemisation is conducted with 0.1 to 100 mole% of strong base relative to the amide.

6. Process according to any one of Claims 1-5, characterised in that an N-benzylidene primary amino acid amide is used as the Schiff base of a primary amino acid amide.

20 7. Process according to any one of Claims 1-6, characterised in that the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of a primary amino acid amide is derived from an aliphatic primary amino acid amide.

8. Process according to Claim 7, characterised in that the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of a primary amino acid amide is derived from tertiary-leucine amide.

25 9. Process according to any one of Claims 1-8, characterised in that an aromatic hydrocarbon, a cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon or an ether is applied as the organic solvent.

10. Process according to Claim 9, characterised in that the organic solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon.

30 11. Process according to any one of Claims 1-10, wherein the enantiomer-enriched primary amino acid amide is converted, in an organic solvent, into the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of the primary amino acid amide, which is mixed with a strong base and the obtained Schiff base of the primary amino acid amide is converted into the primary amino acid amide.

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